Conference (OIC) scheduled at Cairo from July 30 to adopt a resolution proposing a mediation with India on Kashmir by setting up an OIC committee;

(b) if so, the steps according to Government information would have so far been taken by the Pakistan Government in that direction and with what success; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARl KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) The OIC Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo from July 31—August 4, 1990 adopted a resolution in which inter *alia,* willingness is expressed to send a good offices mission to ease tension - between India and Pakistan and to promote a peaceful settlement.

(c) In a statement by official spokesman on August 6, 1990, it was explained that the root cause of the ^resent tensions between India and Pakistan is Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs including sponsorship of and encouragement to terrorists and subversive activities from across the border. We are firmly convinced that the tensions can be successfully defused only by means of bilateral dialogue and that Pakistan's efforts at internationalising the matter will not help. In fact, Pakistan's very raising of Kashmir at OIC is a violation of the Simla Agreement which stipulates the peaceful and bilateral resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan. We have explained our position to all friendly countries including the OIC member states and they have been left in no doubt that Kashmir is not a religious and therefore not an Islamic issue and that internationalization in any manner will not help the bilateral process in any way.

Threat to the freedom of the Press by the then Deputy Prime Minister

1742. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCAST ING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the threat of censorship, given by the then Deputy Prime Minister, to be imposed on the Press allegedly dominated by the Big Houses;

(b) if so, whether it represented Government's thinking with regard to the freedom of the press; and

(c) if not, what was Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(fa) and (c) The views expressed by the then Deputy Prime Minister do not represent the Government's thinking on this issue. The Government is fully committed to the freedom of the Press.

Chinese Supply of Arms to Pakistan

1743. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is supplying new sophisticated arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether Chinese are also providing them the technical know-how of the manufacture of atomic weapons;

(c) whether Chinese are also collaborating with Pakistan about the manufacture of new tanks;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereon; and